

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 181210Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8146

AMCONSUL ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1075

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET, SU

SUBJ: TENNECO FIVE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 5570

1. EMBASSY, OF COURSE, PREPARED MAKE APPROACH TO GOS SUGGESTED REFTEL ON BASIS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE INVOLVED. WE BELIEVE SUCH APPROACH TO BE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE, HOWEVER, IN VIEW FACT THAT ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE BY GOS WILL OBVIOUSLY INVOLVE GOS ADMISSION NOT ONLY OF KNOWLEDGE WHEREABOUT ELF/GENERAL COMMAND LEADERS IN SUDAN BUT EVEN OF DEGREE COLLUSION WITH SUCH LEADERS IN THAT NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AGAINST THEM. GOS HAS, TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, NEVER MADE SUCH ADMISSION (AT LEAST IN RECENT PAST) EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY AND HAS IN FACT ACTED TO CONTRARY, ACCUSING ELF OF INVOLVEMENT AGAINST SUDAN WITH FATAH AT TIME BSO MURDERS LAST MARCH AND COOPERATING WITH ETHIOPIAN MILITARY IN THEIR OPERATIONS AGAINST ELF. THUS, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, EVEN WITH HUMANITARIAN ISSUE INVOLVED, WE SHALL BE ASKING GREAT DEAL OF GOS.

2. IN VIEW THIS SENSITIVITY, EMBASSY PROPOSES IN FIRST INSTANCE TO DELAY APPROACH TO GOS UNTIL RETURN OF AMBASSADOR BREWER TO KHARTOUM NOW SCHEDULED FOR EARLY A.M. MAY 19. WE BELIEVE APPROACH WOULD HAVE BEST CHANCE SUCCESS IF IT MADE THROUGH CONTACT ALREADY ESTABLISHED ON TENNECO FIVE CASE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND MINISTER

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OF INTERIOR. SHOULD AMBASSADOR'S RETURN BE DELAYED, CHARGE

WOULD THEN SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH MININTERIOR MAY 19.

3. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT SUDANESE ADMISSION OF CONTACT WITH HIGH LEVELS OF ELF IN SUDAN NOT REPEAT NOT AS SENSITIVE AS IT APPEARS FROM HERE. DOES EMBASSY ADDIS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE ANY INDICATIONS THAT GOS HAS ADMITTED AND CLEARED SUCH CONTACTS WITH ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES?

4. FINALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DETAILS AS TO WHY SUCH APPROACH IN SUDAN APPEARS NECESSARY--I.E. WHY IT OFFERS BEST CHANCE OF BREAKING IMPASS. IF WE IN EFFECT ASKING GOS ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS REVEAL CLOSELY HELD SECRETS REGARDING LIAISON WITH ELF, WE NEED BE ABLE PUT FORWARD BEST POSSIBLE CASE INCLUDING REASONS WHY EFFORTS HAVE FAILED IN ETHIOPIA, WHY THIS APPROACH SHOULD WORK BETTER, ETC.
SANDERSON

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